REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application is requested in view of the remarks that follow.

In the March 20, 2003 Office Action in this application, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by the Ohkubo reference. As indicated above, claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled; new independent claim 3 and claims 4-6 depending therefrom have been added. For the reasons set forth below, it is believed that new claims 3-6 patentably distinguish over the teaching of the Ohkubo reference.

As discussed in the Summary of the Invention section of the application, the present invention is directed to an improved method of color control for printing presses. The improved method, defined by new independent method claim 3, converts color differences between the target area and a test area into solid ink density corrections through the use of a color space which is both colorimetric and more nearly related to the solid ink density differences than the CIE recommended uniform color spaces previously used. While the claim 3 method maintains the use of CIE recommended uniform color parameters for determining whether or not a color correction is necessary, an alternate color representation, defined in claim 3 as colorimetric density, is used to determine the appropriate inking control adjustments.

Upon careful review of the Ohkubo reference, applicant believes that the reference neither teaches nor suggests the claim 3 method. The Examiner states that Ohkubo teaches utilizing a first color space to determine whether a calculated color difference is within an established color tolerance. If the calculated color difference is determined to exceed the established color tolerance, then an ink correction value is calculated utilizing a second color space. However, upon reading the Ohkubo reference, applicant believes that all of the correction calculations taught by Ohkubo take place within a single defined color space realm. That is, while measurements may be taken from a first and second physical color "spaces" within a test area, the color representation, that is, the uniform color parameters, used in the Ohkubo technique are confined to a single color space.

Referring specifically to new method claim 3, it is recited therein that spectral reflectance values of a test area on the printed sheet are first measured. Measured spectral reflectance values are then converted to test color coordinates in a first selected uniform color space. The test color

coordinates in the selected uniform color space are then compared to target color coordinates in the same color space to obtain color parameter difference values. The color parameter difference values are compared to establish color tolerance to determine whether the color parameter difference values exceed the tolerance. If the tolerance is exceeded, then a control value for the printing press is calculated utilizing a second color space, i.e., colorimetric density difference values resulting from a comparison of colorimetric density values measured on the printed sheet and target colorimetric density values.

New claim 4 states that the control values for the printing press are calculated by converting the colorimetric density difference values to solid ink density difference values using a linear matrix equation.

New claim 5, as discussed, recites that the selected uniform color space utilized for determining whether or not the printed sheet is within a specified tolerance is the CIELAB uniform color space.

New claim 6 recites that the uniform color space utilized for determining whether the printed sheet is intolerance is CIELUV.

For the reasons set forth above, applicants are of the belief that all claims now present in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art. Therefore, it is requested that this application be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

STALLMAN & POLLOCK LLP

Dated: 8-20-2003

By: _____

Michael J. Pollock
Reg. No. 29,098

Attorneys for Applicant(s)